

Warwick School Committee Minutes

Open Session

Meeting of December 11, 2007

The Warwick School Committee met in Open Session at the Winman Jr. High School on December 11, 2007. Chairman Friel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

COMMITTEE

Christopher Friel, Chairperson

Lucille Mota-Costa, Vice-Chairperson

Bethany Furtado, Clerk

Joyce L. Andrade

Paul Cannistra

ADMINISTRATION

Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent

Victor Mercurio, Director of Secondary Education

Richard D'Agostino, Director Special Services

Leonard Flood, Director of Business Affairs

Rosemary Healey, Esq., Director of Compliance & Human Resources

MOTION 2007-346: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to go into closed session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island 42-46-5(a)(1), (a)(2) and (a)(8).

MOTION PASSES (4-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra – not present for vote

Meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m. with the following in attendance in addition to those above:

David E. Small, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Robert T. Bushell, Director of Elementary Education

Chairman Friel announced that in Executive Session there were two actions voted upon with a vote of 5-0 in favor of the recommendation of the Superintendent in each action.

Motion to keep Executive Minutes Private:

MOTION 2007-347: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to keep the Minutes of the Executive Session of December 11, 2007 private.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Student Agenda/Student Comments:

Matt McDermott, Courtney Rocha and Catherine Thompson from Pilgrim High School came before the Committee to comment on

school activities, i.e. their senior project, school store, career and college council, advisory period, challenge day, the blood drive, raising money for Darfur, etc. Chairman Friel asked their general thoughts about the advisory period, and Catherine said she worked closed with her advisor and thought it was working well.

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Approval of Minutes of Public Session

MOTION 2007-348: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to table the Minutes of the Public Session for November 13, 2007.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Approve of Executive Minutes

MOTION 2007-349: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Ms. Furtado, to approve the

Executive Minutes for November 13, 2007.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Approval of Transfers:

MOTION 2007-350: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, to approve the transfers presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Approval of Warrants:

MOTION 2007-351: Moved by Ms. Furtado, seconded by Mrs. Andrade, to approve the warrants presented to the Committee.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Announcements:

Professional appointments:

MOTION 2007-352: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mr.

Cannistra, that the appointment of John Wikicki, math teacher, step 1, be approved pending receipt of Emergency Certification from RIDOE; Dorothy Fobert, math teacher, step 1, be approved pending receipt of Emergency Certification from RIDOE and pending receipt of State and National BCI; Joseph Giorno, technology teacher, step 4, be approved pending receipt of State and National BCI.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Leave of absence:

MOTION 2007-353: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the sabbatical leave for Danielle DiTraglia, Social Studies Teacher at Winman be approved effective for the 2008-2009 school year.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

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Resignation:

MOTION 2007-354: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, that the resignation of Robert Dooley, Food Service Investment Manager Administrator, be accepted effective November 21, 2007.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Classified personnel items:

Appointment:

MOTION 2007-355: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the appointment of Patricia Macdonald, Superintendent's Secretary, be approved.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Retirements/Resignations:

MOTION 2007-356: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, that the retirements of Frances Jaworski, Audio Visual Clerk, Pilgrim High School, be accepted effective December 14, 2007; that the retirement of Florence Brown, bus aide, 36 weeks, be accepted effective December 21, 2007 and that the resignation of Paul Riley, head custodian, Sherman, be accepted effective December 21, 2007.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Coaching appointments:

MOTION 2007-357: Moved by Mrs. Furtado, seconded by Mr. Cannistra, that the following coaching appointments be approved: Edmund Hathaway, assistant coach, wrestling at Warwick Vets, be approved for one year only; Matt Bannon, assistant coach, boys' basketball at Warwick Vets, be approved for one year only; Mike Daniels, assistant coach, girls' indoor track at Pilgrim, be approved for one year only; Mike Boyajian, assistant coach boys' hockey at Pilgrim, be approved for one year only; Michael DeCesare, assistant coach boys' basketball at Toll Gate, be approved for one year only.

Recognitions: Robert Benson and Stephanie Morse were recognized as extraordinary students and outstanding athletes at Veterans. Robert Benson was named Gatorade Player of the Year (football) and Stephanie Morse named National All-American Girls Soccer Player.

School Redistricting/Consolidation Advisory Committee Update – Dr. Horoschak reported the second meeting was held on December 6th. He said we are continuing to instruct members of the various groups of the essential facts on school consolidation issue. Information was presented by Mr. Bushell on capacity and various concerns and

explanation of how we must look at combination of classes, class size and rooms and how those rooms must be able to accommodate certain activities and classes. Dr. Mercurio discussed the middle schools and ability of middle schools to accept sixth grade. Dr. D'Agostino gave information on special ed requirements and space requirements. There will be a major cost in bringing our facilities up to code and making necessary repairs and changes. The Committee has been charged to get to work, and the three groups will be lead by Mr. Bushell, Dr. D'Agostino and Dr. Mercurio. There will be another meeting on Thursday, January 10th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. .

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Health & Wellness Committee Update - Mrs. Furtado said there have been some changes made which have been brought to our attention. She asked Mr. Esposito, from Chartwells, to explain them. He said that changes are being made in the secondary area, i.e. 100% water (no additives or sweetener), 1% and 2% milk, no cookies, limited chips (baked), and one ice cream provided. French fries are no longer served as an ala carte item, but are provided with a meal. He said that changes had already been made in the elementary area.

Elementary Progress Report: Dr. Siesel made a power point presentation of the revised elementary progress reports. She will meet with all the teachers so everyone gets the same presentation.

MOTION 2007-358: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the revised elementary progress report.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Request for additional preschool classroom

Dr. D'Agostino said there is a room equipped with lavatories at Holliman that is not being used which could be used to establish another preschool within one of our public schools. There is also equipment to help supply the room. The funding for the preschool positions will be transferred from the tuition account. The placement of preschool students within our own schools allows for savings to fund the new positions.

MOTION 2007-359: Moved by Ms. Mota-Costa, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to approve the additional preschool classroom.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Bids/Change Orders

There is no bid award recommended for Fuel Oil #2/diesel delivery – the bid specifications will be changed and bid will be re-issued.

MOTION 2007-360: Moved by Mrs. Andrade, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, that the bid for electronic diagnostic equipment, in the amount of \$6,112.00, be awarded to RSR Electronics per the bid tabulation.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra – Aye

Pay Increase for lunch aides, bus monitors and substitutes:

MOTION 2007-361: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to table this agenda item at this time.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

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Advertising Policy – 1st reading - A 4-page draft of the advertising policy was presented. Ms. Furtado

said she volunteered to address the issue of advertising within the district revising and creating a policy. She said there is no policy in Rhode Island regarding advertising on school properties or school transportation vehicles. Ms. Furtado said she and Attorney Healey went through a number of advertising policies used throughout the country and compiled information from those policies. The 4-page draft was presented for discussion. Discussion summary: all accepted advertisements must be handled through a contract that is pre-approved by the School committee. Advertising for political campaigns, religious organizations or featuring the promotion of alcohol or tobacco will not be permitted. All schools benefiting from advertising to determine a separate line item in its budget for advertising revenue so it can be tracked. Proceeds will be used to further student achievement as well as funding athletics and other activities and will be shared among the entire student population. Groups that use the buildings and post flyers must receive approval from the school principal prior to posting any announcements. Attorney Healey said the primary intent of this policy is for revenue-producing activities – it is not intended to impede PTA and PTO meetings or other activities. Advertising on outside of school buses would be discouraged as it may cover up or hide some of the identifying markings and Rhode Island statute requires school buses

be painted a certain shade of yellow and must contain certain identifying markings such as signage and flashing lights. Certain amendments were suggested: first paragraph “owned, controlled or leased by”; in the second paragraph eliminating the last sentence – “To that end, ... developed.” On page 4, under subsection F. to add after the word “grounds” governed by state law.

Public: Steve Campanelli: who will establish rates? – Chairman Friel responded rates will be discussed with interested advertising company and put in a contract that will be approved by the SC.

Superintendent Horoschak suggested the committee establish a uniform policy as a means of resolving the scoreboard issue at Vets. Chairman Friel said the committee has the ability to revisit the Vets scoreboard issue.

MOTION 2007-362: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Ms. Mota-Costa, to approve the first reading of Policy KHB (with amendments).

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Public comment:

Nicholas Mergo – commended the good sportsmanship during the recent Toll Gate football game.

A group of four students from Tollgate addressed the Committee

regarding the recent issue of a mural being painted over. This mural was displayed in the main stair well and depicted rainbow people with the saying "When the power of love, overcomes the love of power, then the world will know peace." These were the words of Jimi Hendrix. A Petition was presented to committee which had 450 names. The students said that Principal Chrabaszcz had this painted over because of complaints from some parents, and he did not consult with any students or representatives and they were not given the opportunity to protest. The petition expresses the majority opinion that there was a violation of rights and freedom of speech and censorship. The students requested restoration, and that in the future students and faculty will be consulted before action is taken. Darlene Netcoh commented that many teachers were quite irritated that the mural was painted over, and complained about painting in the middle of the school day, saying that a while back painting was done during the day and a teacher and some students became sick. She also complained about mid-year exams saying the current proposal didn't take students or faculty into

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consideration. She said that essays will be graded by teachers, and said she thought that the graduation by proficiency coordinator should be reading these essays. A member of the public said that a couple of months back he had commented on the buses loading at

Robertson, and they are still entering the same way. Dr. Horoschak said we are addressing the situation to change the way the buses enter, but it will take some additional construction of roadways coming into the school. The other safety issues are being addressed. He said that come spring time, hopefully be able to make alterations. Jonathan Latierre said that when an agreement was made 16 months ago between the WTU and WSD, there were 5 committees that were to address some unresolved issues and he wondered when those issues would be resolved. Chairman Friel said he had recently received a letter from Mr. Holtzman requesting a time to meet and a meeting would be taking place in a couple of weeks. Mr. Campanelli was concerned about the icy condition at Robertson school reporting that four students, as well as a parent, had fallen.

Special meeting dates: Redistricting: January 10, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Executive Session on January 3, 2008.

Regular Meeting: January 8, 2008.

MOTION 2007-363: Moved by Mr. Cannistra, seconded by Mrs. Furtado, to adjourn.

MOTION PASSES (5-0)

Christopher Friel - Aye Lucille Mota-Costa - Aye

Joyce L. Andrade – Aye Bethany Furtado – Aye

Paul Cannistra - Aye

Meeting adjourned: 9:25 p.m.

Bethany Furtado, Clerk

Betsey Snipes, Secretary